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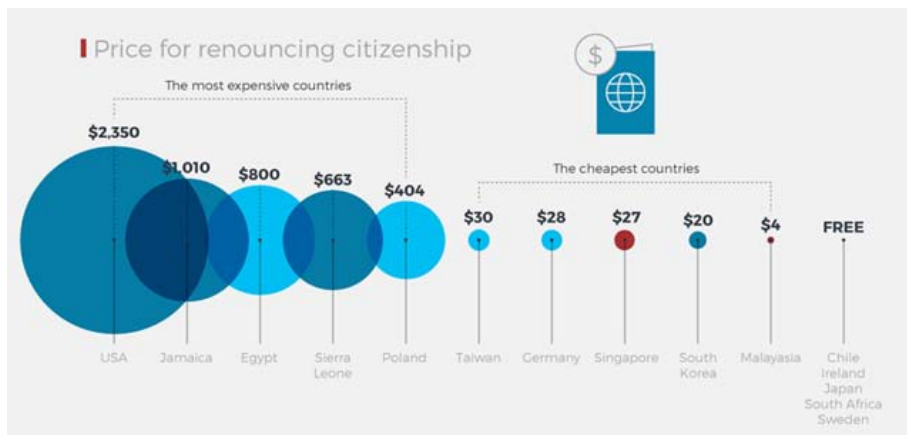
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U.S. Has World's Highest Fee To Renounce Citizenship

Why do people renounce their citizenship? It can be over family, tax and legal complications, and is hardly like changing clothes. If you can keep dual citizenship, that can be fine, but it isn't always possible under the law. To view a helpful [infographic](#) from MoveHub displaying the countries around the world and their position on dual citizenship, click [here](#).

Regardless of whether it is a dual citizenship snafu that prompts someone to renounce a particular country's citizenship, is it hard? Not usually, though requirements vary. And so does the extent you must dig in your wallet. Some countries make citizens pay a fee to hand in their passport. Some countries have eliminated fees altogether. According to [Movehub](#), the U.S. has the highest fees in the world to renounce citizenship at \$2,350.

The [U.S. was criticized for hiking its fee to renounce by 422%](#), from \$450 to \$2,350. The U.S. State Department said [raising the fee](#) from \$450 to \$2,350 for renunciation of U.S. citizenship was about demand and paperwork. Perhaps, but American expatriations grew rather than declined. And the \$2,350 fee is more than [twenty times the average level](#) in other high-income countries. The State Department has complained about all the extra workload they have to process people who are on their way out.



Courtesy of [MoveHub: Dual Citizenship Around the World](#)

Fee for Renouncing Citizenship Around the World (in USD)

Country	Price
Ireland	Free
Japan	Free
South Africa	Free
Sweden	Free
Malaysia	4.00
South Korea	20.00
Singapore	27.00
Germany	28.16
Taiwan	30.00
Russia	31.43
Cyprus	33.79
China	39.33
Dominica	44.44
Nigeria	50.00
Tanzania	60.00
Hong Kong	74.00
Canada	76.64
Colombia	80.00
Peru	87.00
Israel	92.00
Vietnam	118.00
Pakistan	150.00
Denmark	166.02
India	175.00
Australia	203.63
Kenya	216.00
Italy	225.26
New Zealand	254.73
United Kingdom	339.41
Lebanon	350.00
Ghana	400.00
Poland	404.95
Sierra Leone	663.00
Egypt	800.00
Jamaica	1,010.00
United States	2,350.00

Courtesy of [MoveHub](#)

The State Department also [increased the fee for relinquishment](#) from \$450 to \$2,350. Previously, there was the enhanced \$2,350 fee for *renouncing*, and a

smaller \$450 fee for relinquishment. It may be a distinction without a difference. As the [State Department put it](#), it was just harmonizing the two, which are similar in any case. Leaving the U.S. for good isn't just a matter of getting on a plane. It is not usually primarily about taxes, although taxes often play a part. And when it comes to taxes, persons leaving the U.S. may hope they do not need to keep filing with the IRS every year.

Getting a Certificate of Loss of Nationality and exiting will address the immigration side of the legal issue, but not taxes. Obtaining a Certificate of Loss of Nationality doesn't mean the IRS will leave you alone. To leave America, you generally must prove 5 years of U.S. tax compliance. If you have a net worth greater than \$2 million or average annual net income tax for the 5 previous years of \$160,000 or more (that's tax, not income), you pay an [exit tax](#). It is a capital gain tax as if you sold your property when you left. At least there's an exemption of \$680,000. Long-term residents giving up a Green Card can be required to pay the tax too.

No one wants to pay an exit tax if they can avoid it. Sometimes planning and valuations can reduce or even eliminate the tax. But taxed or not, many still seem to be headed for the exits. Some groups are especially vocal about their tax plight. Last year, dual citizens in Canada trying to shed their U.S. citizenship [created a backlog](#) at the U.S. consulate in Toronto. President [Obama has joked about his birth certificate, but accidental American status is no joke](#). Many end up in untenable financial situations.

With global tax reporting and FATCA, the list of the [individuals](#) who renounce keeps going up, and [many aren't counted](#). The Treasury Department is [required](#) to publish a [quarterly list](#), but these numbers are under-stated. Still, there have been [record numbers renouncing](#).

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